Message Text

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R 212016Z SEP 77 FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7552 INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID AMEMBASSY MEXICO USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MX, GT, SP, MASS

SUBJ: MEXICAN INTEREST IN TRAINING IN SPAIN FOR

GUATEMALAN MILITARY

REF: MEXICO 15689 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO LOCATE ANY STATEMENT IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN BY KING JUAN CARLOS REGARDING OFFER OF TRAINING FOR GUATEMALAN MILITARY OFFICERS. HOWEVER, IN PRESS CONFERENCE HERE SEPTEMBER 12, SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA MADE A GENERAL ALLUSION TO SPANISH WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL "ACADEMIC" ASSISTANCE TO THE GUATEMALAN MILITARY. NEXT DAY PRESIDENT LAUGERUD TOLD PRESS THAT GOG HAD REQUESTED TECHNICAL TRAINING FROM SPAIN. AS EXAMPLES OF MILITARY SPECIALTIES IN WHICH SPAIN COULD PROVIDE NEEDED TRAINING HE MENTIONED PILOTS, NAVAL OFFICERS, COMMUNICATORS, MILITARY HEALTH PERSONNEL, AND QUARTERMASTERS. HE SPECIFICALLY RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING GUATEMALAN CADETS TO SPANISH MILITARY ACADEMIES, GUATEMALAN FACILITIES BEING ENTIRELY ADEQUATE.

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2. ON SEPTEMBER 19 REPORTERS QUESTIONED GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA ABOUT REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY ROEL, APPARENTLY THOSE WHICH PROMPTED REFTEL QUERY, IMPLYING CONCERN ABOUT MILITARY TRAINING IN SPAIN FOR GUATEMALANS. MOLINA EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT AT MEXICAN INTEREST IN THIS QUESTION SINCE "AGREEMENTS OF THIS SORT ARE COMMON AND GUATEMALANS HAVE RECEIVED MILITARY TRAINING

IN MEXICO AS WELL."

3. SPANISH EMBASSY'S FIRST SECRETARY, IN RESPONSE TO POLOFF INQUIRY SEPTEMBER 20, SAID THAT SPANISH KING'S VISIT DID NOT PRODUCE ANY NEW AGREEMENT ON MILITARY TRAINING, CONTRARY TO IMPRESSION PRESIDENT LAUGERUD'S AND MINISTER OREJA'S REMARKS MAY HAVE GIVEN. HE POINTED OUT THAT GUATEMALAN OFFICERS HAVE FOR SOME YEARS RECEIVED ADVANCED TRAINING IN SPAIN.

ANDREWS

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